

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of storing digital video content to facilitate trick play, the content comprising intra-coded frames of video and inter-coded frames of video, the method comprising:

storing the inter-coded and the intra-coded frames of the content in a first file;

storing a duplicate of the intra-coded frames of the content in a second file;

storing a set of forward indices that relates the intra coded frames with the inter-coded frames in a forward direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the forward indices simulates a fast-forward playback; and

storing a set of reverse indices that relates the intra-coded frames with the inter-coded frames in a reverse direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the reverse indices simulates a fast-reverse playback.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating the set of forward indices and the set of reverse indices for storage.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the digital video content is MPEG encoded, wherein the intra-coded frames comprise I-frames, and wherein the inter-coded frames comprise P-frames and B-frames.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and the intra-coded frames from the first file to produce a normal playback stream.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the forward indices to produce a fast forward playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of intra-coded frames from the second file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the normal playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the forward indices.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the forward indices to produce a fast forward playback stream.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file in the order of the forward indices to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast forward playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the forward indices.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the reverse indices to produce a fast reverse playback stream.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file in the order of the forward indices to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast reverse playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the reverse indices.

10. (Original) A method of storing digital video content to facilitate trick play, the content comprising intra-coded frames of video and inter-coded frames of video, the method comprising:

storing the inter-coded and the intra-coded frames of the content in a first file;

storing the intra-coded frames of the content in a second file;

storing a set of indices that relate the intra-coded frames in the first file with the intra-coded frames in the second file, such that playback of the second file simulates a fast-forward playback if played back in a first order and simulates a fast rewind if played back in a second order.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising generating the set of indices for storage.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the digital video content is MPEG encoded, wherein the intra-coded frames comprise I-frames, and wherein the inter-coded frames comprise P-frames and B-frames.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and the intra-coded frames from the first file to produce a normal playback stream.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 13, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in a first order of the indices to produce a fast forward playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of intra-coded frames from the second file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the normal playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the indices.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in a first order of the indices to produce a fast forward playback stream.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 15, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast forward playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the indices.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in a second order of the indices to produce a fast reverse playback stream.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 17, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of inter-coded and intra-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast reverse playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the indices.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of storing digital video content to facilitate trick play, the content comprising intra-coded frames of video and inter-coded frames of video, the method comprising:

at a video on demand system for a television service provider:

storing the inter-coded frames of the content in a first file;

storing the intra-coded frames of the content in a second file;

storing a set of forward indices that relate the intra-coded frames to the inter-coded frames in a forward direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the forward indices simulates a fast-forward playback; [[and]]

storing a set of reverse indices that relate the intra-coded frames to the inter-coded frames in a reverse direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the reverse indices simulates a fast-reverse playback, and

where, commands received at the television service provider from a subscriber terminal requesting trick play modes are implemented by retrieving inter-coded frames from the first file using either the forward or the reverse indices.

20. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising generating the set of forward indices and the set of reverse indices for storage.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, wherein the digital video content is MPEG encoded, wherein the intra-coded frames comprise I-frames, and wherein the inter-coded frames comprise P-frames and B-frames.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 19, further comprising retrieving the inter-coded frames from the first file and the intra-coded frames from the second file to produce a normal playback stream.

23. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 22, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the forward indices to produce a fast forward playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of intra-coded frames from the second file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the normal playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the forward indices.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the forward indices to produce a fast forward playback stream.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file and the inter-coded frames from the first file in the order of the forward indices to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of the inter-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast forward playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the forward indices.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file in the order of the reverse indices to produce a fast reverse playback stream.

27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 26, further comprising retrieving the intra-coded frames from the second file and the inter-coded frames from the first file in the order of the forward indices to produce a normal playback stream, and wherein the retrieving of intra-coded frames from the second file and the inter-coded frames from the first file starts at a frame near a current playback point in the fast reverse playback stream, and wherein the frame near the current playback point is determined from the reverse indices.

28.-43. (Cancelled Without Prejudice)

44. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage device for storage and retrieval of digital video content, comprising:

at least one computer readable storage medium for use in conjunction with at a video on demand system for a television service provider;

a first file residing on the storage medium storing inter-coded frames of the digital video content;

a second file residing on the storage medium storing intra-coded frames of the digital video content in a second file;

a forward index table residing on the storage medium that relates the intra-coded frames to the inter-coded frames in a forward direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the forward indices simulates a fast-forward playback; [[and]]

a reverse index table residing on the storage medium that relates the intra-coded frames to the inter-coded frames in a reverse direction such that playback of the second file in the order of the reverse indices simulates a fast-reverse playback, and

where, commands received at the television service provider from a subscriber terminal requesting trick play modes are implemented by retrieving inter-coded frames from the first file using either the forward or the reverse indices.